

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 224  
By Sharp

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Tom Watson  
and the state champion East Ridge High School  
softball team.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is very proud of our athletic teams that  
work hard, play adroitly, overcome adversity and win state championships; and

WHEREAS, to the thunderous applause of their many fans and the delight of diamond  
enthusiasts, the magnificent East Ridge High School softball team recently completed an  
impressive season by capturing the coveted state championship; and

WHEREAS, East Ridge showed early signs of promise by winning the St. Jude Classic  
Tournament and the Hoover Invitational Tournament; and

WHEREAS, their memorable path of glory included District Tournament, Regional  
Tournament and substate titles; and

WHEREAS, their almost unbelievable overall record was an enviable 41 victories  
against only 4 losses, an exemplary winning percentage of .911; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Pioneers also won 31 straight games; and

WHEREAS, the long list of accomplishments of this tremendously talented team, who  
played like seasoned veterans, is truly amazing, especially when it is taken into consideration  
that the Lady Pioneers had the services of only one senior and two juniors; and

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WHEREAS, the highly regarded coaching staff, who did an excellent job of teaching the necessary skills and served as inspirational mentors, were: head coach Tom Watson, Assistant Coach Dan Gilbert, in charge of infielders and the defensive alignment; and Assistant Coach Shane Lambert, in charge of outfielders; and

WHEREAS, the members of the team were scholar-athletes in the truest sense of the word. They were: senior Kim Tribble, shortstop; juniors, Jessica Dickert, catcher; Bethany Roberts, third base, Beta Club; and Whitney Williams, outfielder, Beta Club and Honor Society; sophomores, Beth Alexander, All-State and All-City pitcher, Beta Club; Paige Cochrane, All-City outfielder, Beta Club and Honor Society; Jennifer Phillips, outfielder, Beta Club; Dana Reed, All-City outfielder, Beta Club and Honor Society; Holly Speiser, All-City second base, Beta Club and Honor Society; and Freshmen, Angela Brewer, All-State and All-City first base, Stacey Broome, third base; Holly Hamilton, outfielder, Amy Kerfort, first base; Cynthia Polk, pitcher, and Ashley Sherman, second base; and

WHEREAS, Principal Ed Foster has been very supportive of the team's efforts; and

WHEREAS, this extraordinary team is deserving of special recognition; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Tom Watson and the East Ridge High School Lady Pioneers on winning the state softball championship and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copy.